

CLAIMS

1. A method of mapping the Internet to generate an optimized set of proxy points in a local name server address space, comprising:

for a given pair of data centers, executing a trace route from each data center to a given local name server;
locating an intersection of the trace routes at a common routing point; and
assigning an Internet Protocol (IP) address of the common routing point as a proxy point in the local name server address space.

2. The method as described in Claim 1 wherein the data centers are mirror sites that host content from at least one content provider.

3. The method as described in Claim 1 wherein the common routing point is a first common point when viewed from a perspective of the data centers.

4. The method as described in Claim 1 wherein the common routing point is a last common point when viewed from a perspective of the given local name server.

5. A method of generating a map to be used in routing end user local name server content requests to a set of content provider mirror sites, comprising:

for each local name server, tracing a route from each mirror site to the local name server;

- 5 identifying a point adjacent an intersection of the routes; and
associating an IP address of the point to a given one of the content provider mirror sites in the map.

6. The method as described in Claim 5 wherein the point is the intersection of
10 the routes.

7. A method of generating a network map useful for determining which of a set of mirror sites should receive a client request, comprising:

identifying a set of proxy points, wherein each proxy point represents a given point in the Internet at which a trace originating from each of the set of mirror sites directed

5 toward a given name server intersect;

periodically probing the proxy points to generate given data; and

using the given data to generate the network map.